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MAR 28 2008

Remarks/Arguments

Summary of Telephone Interview

Applicant appreciates that examiner's time and effort during a telephone interview initiated by Applicant on February 28, 2008. During that telephone interview, the examiner expressed his current understanding of the case. Basically, the examiner commented that he considered our claims to be directed to burning a fuel, that blue flame burners and yellow flame burners were known burners, and that Fischer-Tropsch fuels were known fuels.

Applicant commented that F-T fuel is made from carbon monoxide, and could be considered a type of "green" fuel. Applicant pointed out that most of the references cited by the examiner relate to diesel fuels comprising F-T product. Applicant noted that home heating oils and diesel fuels are subject to different ASTM standards. Specifically, Applicant pointed out that home heating oils are subject to ASTM D-396 and that diesel fuels are subject to ASTM D-975.

With respect to examiner's comments related to the "neat" Fischer-Tropsch fuel in WO 01/83648, applicant pointed out portions of WO 01/83648 that would contradict a position that the "neat" Fischer-Tropsch fuel could be used alone as a diesel fuel. Applicant pointed out the comment on page 4 of WO 01/83648 that "in one embodiment of this invention is provided a diesel fuel blend comprising a Fischer-Tropsch derived distillate which fails to satisfy the density specifications as specified in ASTM D-4052." Applicant commented that the testing of the "neat" Fischer-Tropsch fuels was primarily related to emission properties.

Applicant commented that the use of a Fischer-Tropsch fuel for domestic heating purposes had a number of advantages. For example, with respect to carbon monoxide emissions, Applicant pointed out the results shown in Figure 3, which demonstrate the reduced emissions upon burner start up. Applicant commented on the importance of this factor in a domestic heating context, where the burner typically would start up several times per hour. Applicant also noted that the F-T fuel could be burned at low lambda without large emissions of CO, and that these advantages were not dependent upon adequate ventilation.

Applicant noted the teachings in the specification that direct heating of large spaces currently involved the use of pressurized gas, and that the hazards of explosion and the need for professional handlers could be avoided using liquid Fischer-Tropsch fuel in place of pressurized

gas. Specification ¶ [0014]. Applicant also noted the teachings in the specification that the liquid F-T fuels formed less deposits, and because of this, that liquid F-T fuels did not tend to create false currents in the ionization sensor. Specification ¶ [0014].

The examiner commented that persons in the field were motivated to find alternatives to petroleum based home heating oil. The examiner reiterated his belief that he had cited references which supported the use of F-T fuel in a blue flame burner. Applicant commented that Chen appeared to be the only cited non-diesel fuel based reference, and reiterated arguments made in previous responses that Chen did not support the examiner's position.

The examiner commented that it was not clear that the data given in the specification provided adequate support for broad claims of the scope now pending. The examiner indicated that he would revisit the references in light of the foregoing, in particular Chen, and Applicant agreed to file a response.

Argument

Applicant submits the foregoing new set of claims, which are filed with a second RCE. The new claims add no new matter.

Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims render the current rejections moot. Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of the new claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is in a condition for allowance. If the examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 334-5151 x 200 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby

authorized to charge any fees in connection with this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit
Account No. 19-1800 (File No. TS8580), maintained by Shell Oil Company.

Respectfully submitted,



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